

Remarks

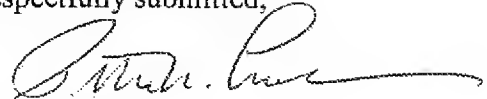
The claims as amended provide for a power plant of a vehicle including a longitudinally aligned engine and a transmission disposed under such engine. Such disposition of the engine and transmission permits such power plant to be installed in a vehicle body as shown in Figure 2 of the drawings, providing a forward compartment for the operating personnel of the vehicle, a rear compartment for carrying additional personnel and/or equipment and a passageway therebetween, along a side of the power plant as indicated in Figure 4 of the drawings.

It is submitted that the patent to Ima neither discloses nor teaches such an arrangement. Ima merely discloses and teaches a power plant and driveline arrangement consisting of a front transaxle 10 provided with steering wheels, a middle transaxle 16, a rear transaxle 4, an engine 3 and a transmission 13 disposed between the engine and the rear transaxle. The transmission in Ima is not disposed under the engine but rearwardly thereof, and neither the engine nor the transmission is aligned longitudinally but transversely. Nothing in the specification either indicates or teaches that the engine and transmission are disposed in a stacked relation. Furthermore, none of the secondary references cited discloses or teaches repositioning the engine and the transmission in Ima as provided for in the claims.

In view of the foregoing, it respectfully is requested that the rejection of claims be withdrawn, such claims be allowed and further that the application be passed to issue.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 14-1437, under Order No. 8375.004.US0000.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter N. Lalos
Reg. No. 19,789

Date: September 3, 2009